

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method of producing a carbon nanotube dispersed composite material comprising:

kneading and dispersing a ceramics (but excluding alumina) powder or metal (but excluding aluminum and its alloy) powder and long-chain carbon nanotubes in an amount of 10 wt% or less by a ball mill; and

sintering the ~~dispersed~~ knead-dispersed material by discharge plasma, ~~thereby forming the carbon nanotube dispersed composite material in which the knead-dispersed material is filled between punches in a die, and pulse current is allowed to flow while pressing.~~

Claims 8-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (New): The method of producing a carbon nanotube dispersed composite material according Claim 7, wherein sintering proceeds at 500°C to 2000°C.

Claim 22 (New): The method of producing a carbon nanotube dispersed composite material according Claim 7, wherein sintering proceeds under a pressure of 10 to 100 MPa.

Claim 23 (New): The method of producing a carbon nanotube dispersed composite material according Claim 7, wherein sintering the knead-dispersed material by discharge plasma comprises two sintering steps: sintering the knead-dispersed material by plasma

Application No. 10/577,875
Reply to Office Action of June 1, 2009

discharge under a pressure of 15 to 20 MPa; and then sintering the knead-dispersed material by discharge plasma under a pressure of 30 to 60 MPa.